

W. R. Price

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH

OF THE

Cwmbran Urban District

For the Year 1937,

BY

JAMES FLEMING

M.B., Ch. B. (Glas.),

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(*Pro. Tem.*)

INCLUDING

**SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
REPORT.**

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1938



Cwmbran Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending December 31st, 1937.

CWMBRAN,

July, 1938

*To the Chairman and Members of the Cwmbran
Urban District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

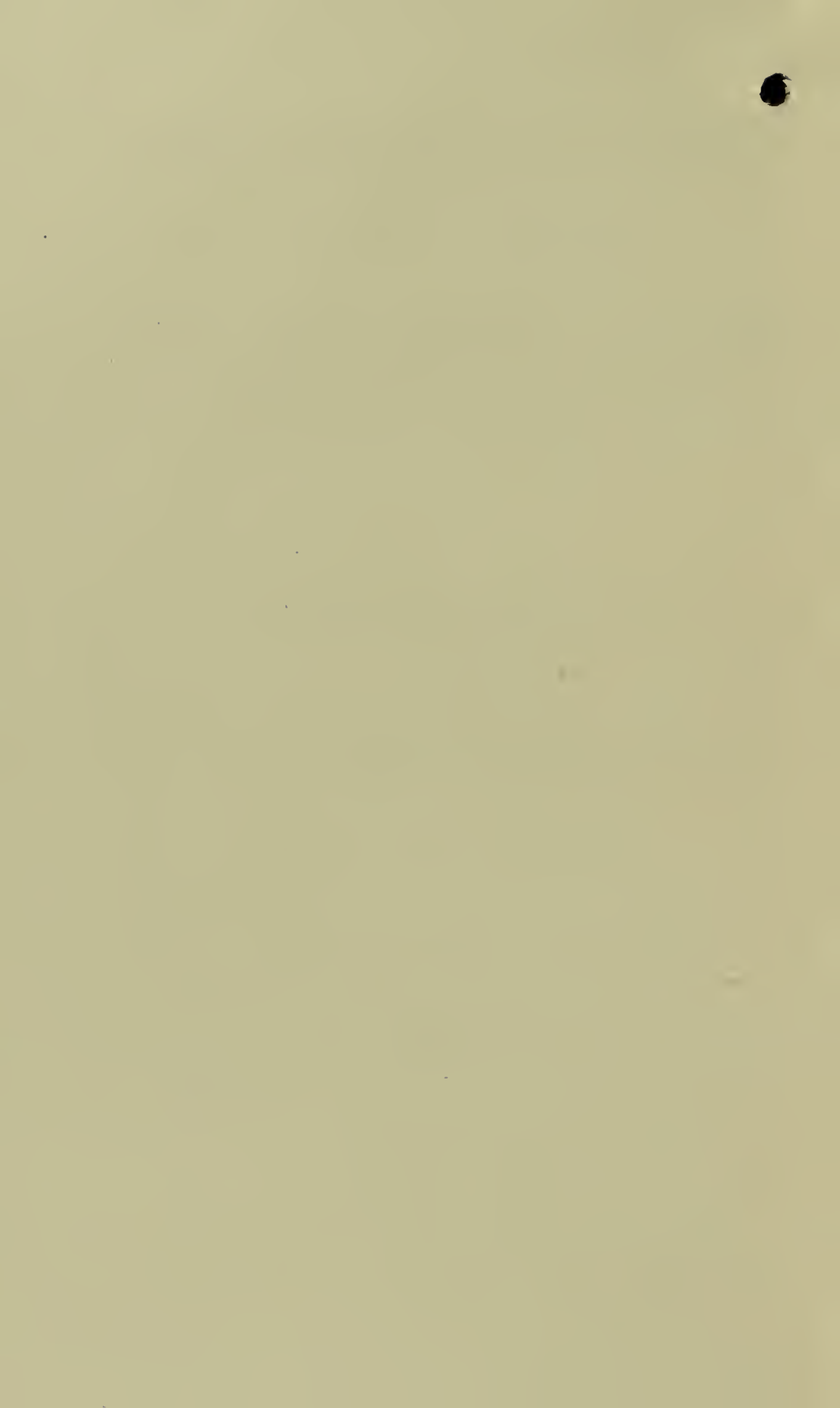
I beg to submit my Annual Report as temporary Medical Officer of Health for your District. It is drawn up according to the directions of the Ministry of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (in acres)	....	5,850
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1937	...	10,950
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937)		
according to the rate books	....	2,861
Rateable Value	....	£34,517
Sum represented by penny rate	....	£119

Social Conditions.

The inhabitants of the district are mainly engaged in local industries.



The works situated in the district are :—

1. Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds (iron and brick works).
2. Messrs Whitehead, Hill (wire works and brickworks)
3. Messrs. Avondale Tin Plate Company.
4. Messrs. Redbrook Tinplate Co., Ltd., Pontnewydd.
5. The Pontnewydd Tin Stamping Company, Ltd.
- 6 The Metalitho Tin Stamping Company.

There is a new biscuit factory in course of construction at Llantarnam, and a new factory about to be erected in Cwmbran for the manufacture of valves.

These new industries should absorb a large number of the unemployed, whose numbers have shown no appreciable diminution during the year. Building and public works have given temporary employment to a small proportion.

Vital Statistics.

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	148	80	68
Illegitimate	7	6	1

Birth Rate per 1,000, of the estimated resident population 14'1

Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1937 .. 14'9

	Total	Male	Female
STILL BIRTHS	11	6	5
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births		...	66'3

	Total	Male	Female
DEATHS ...	146	86	60

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13'3

ditto ditto 1936 10'5

Death Rate for England and Wales, 1937 .. 12'4

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—

Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	0
Other Puerperal Causes ..	...	2

Total ... 2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 12

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	77'4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	77'4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	—

DEATHS FROM CANCER—

All Ages	... ..	14
Measles (all ages)	... ..	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	0
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	... ..	1

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality.

Causes of Sickness.

There was a fairly normal incidence of sickness during the year except for the influenza epidemic at the beginning.

The unemployment factor still plays an important part in the causation of malnutrition of adults and children generally and therefore lowers their resistance to illness.

General Provision of the Health Services for the Area.

1 (i) *Public Health Officers* The staff consists of :

(a) The Medical Officer of Health (a part-time office). The late Medical Officer held no Diploma of Public Health, but had eleven years experience in the post. The duties comprise attending meetings of the Public Health Committee of the Council and advising on matters of Public Health.

(b) The Sanitary Inspector, who also carries out the duties of Housing Officer and Inspector of Foods. He holds the Certificate of the Sanitary Institute and his duties are laid down in the Sanitary Order, 1926.



2. *Laboratory Facilities*—Clinical material is examined and water, milk and foodstuffs analysed at the County laboratory, Newport. Full advantage is taken of this facility.

3. *Home Nursing*.—The Nursing Association is in a strong position and well supported by the people of the district. Excellent nursing service is rendered by two capable and efficient nurses.

4. *Ambulance Facilities*—Towards the end of the year Newport Town Council ceased to hire their ambulance outside the Borough, but thanks to the initiative and enthusiasm of the late Medical Officer, the generosity of the local employers and the full co-operation of the Council, a very definite move was made towards securing a new and up-to-date ambulance for the needs of the district.

5. *Treatment and Clinic Centres*.—A maternity and child welfare clinic is held once a week in the Wesley Vestry. Ante-natal and school clinics are held in Newport, under the control of the County Council, where treatment is provided for expectant mothers, and children suffering from enlarged tonsils, defective eyesight, defective teeth, etc.

The tuberculosis clinic is held at Palmyra Place, Newport.

6. *Hospitals*.—Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Chepstow Isolation Hospital wherever necessary.

The district is well catered for by general hospitals just outside its boundaries.

1. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(i) *Water*—The water supply is supplied from your own reservoir at Upper Cwmbran with auxiliary supplies from Newport and Pontypool when required. There are still isolated houses in the district which derive their water from wells. Samples have been taken and subjected to bacterio-



logical examination. Houses at Ty Coch previously supplied by Rachel's Well now have a piped supply off the Council's mains.

A serious subsidence took place at Blaen Bran reservoir and the Council, having had expert advice on this, have prepared plans to put it in order. Application for a grant has been made to help carry out the work.

Your water supply proved adequate during the year for all purposes. Analysis, bacterial and chemical, have been satisfactory.

(ii.) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—Important extensions to the sewerage have been completed during the year in the Penywain district, and Grange Road and Ventnor Road. Supplementary sewers to deal with surface water were also completed.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The district now being provided with an efficient sewerage system, the rivers and streams are becoming free from gross pollution.

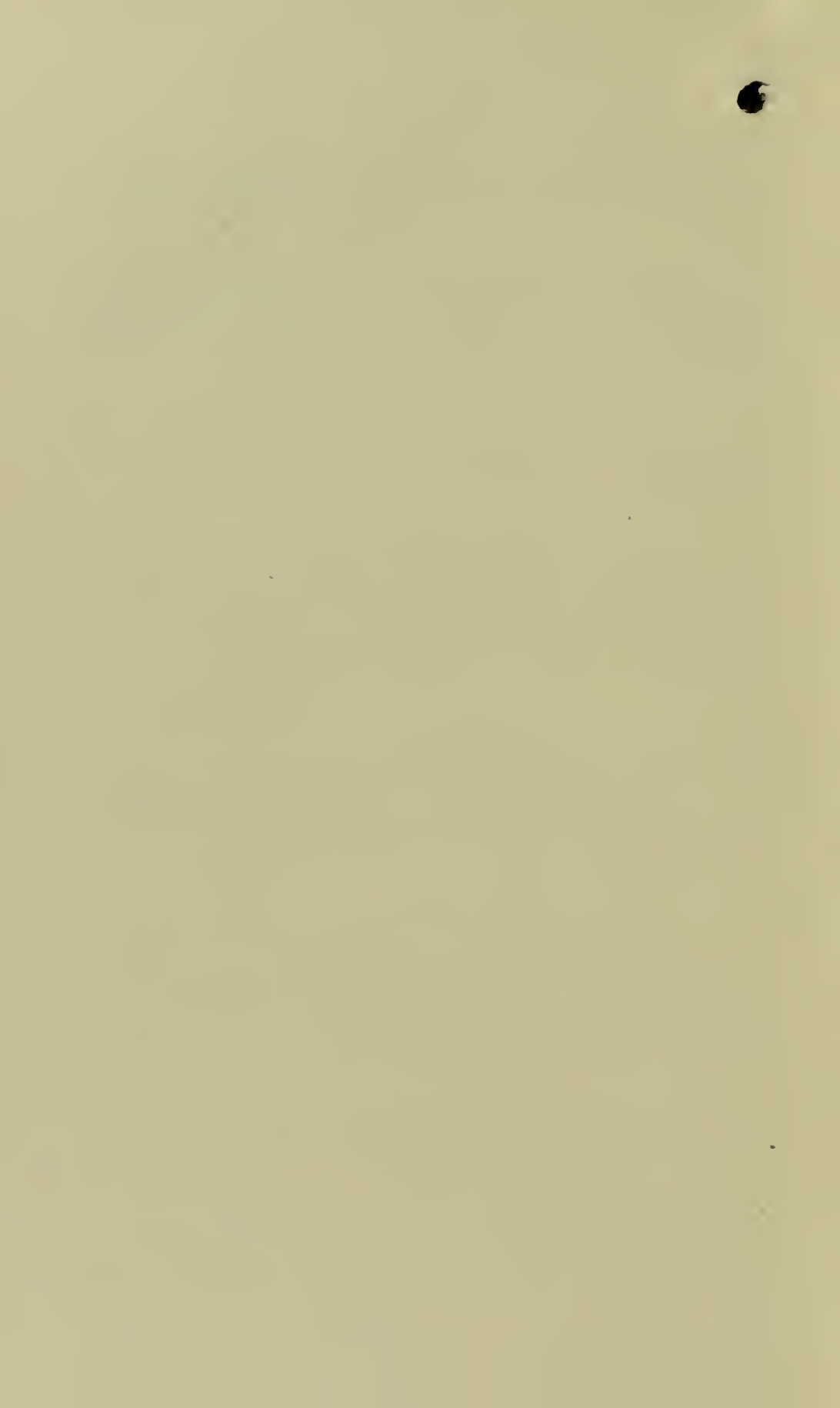
3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

(i) There were 15 conversions to water carriage system during the year. There are still 56 houses with ash pits, 106 with movable receptacles. These are in outlying districts.

(ii) The Council now carry out the collection of refuse by means of a covered lorry or freighter, but the disposal is as before, viz., tipping in waste areas.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

(iii.) The number of inspections made during 1937 was



These consisted of inspections for damp, structural defects and conditions arising from overcrowding.

The number of informal notices served was 39

These notices were in most cases followed by the carrying out of the necessary repairs.

In addition special and detailed inspections were carried out for collecting information and preparing reports on houses recommended for demolition and for inclusion in Slum Clearance areas.

(iv.) No action was taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

(v.) There are no publicly or privately owned swimming baths or pools in your area

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

(vi.) Infested houses :

<i>a</i> Council houses . .	2	Disinfested . .	2
<i>b</i> Other houses . .	5	Disinfested . .	5

The method employed for disinfestation, vermicene spray.

Belongings from tenants are disinfested in all cases before removal to Council houses. This work is carried out by the Local Authority.

The water supply and sanitary conditions of the public elementary schools situated in your district are generally satisfactory.

It was not found necessary to close the Schools during the year on account of infectious diseases.



Housing Statistics for the year 1937.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.*

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... 136
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	289
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	... 79
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	79
3		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.... nil
4		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	... nil

2. *Remedy of defects without service of formal notices*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	... 39
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Action under Statutory Powers.

A—Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	.... 2
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices 12 :—	
	(a) By owners	.... 2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(a) By owners —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 2

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders 2

D. Proceedings under Sections 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

Housing Act, 1935.

A. I. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year 88

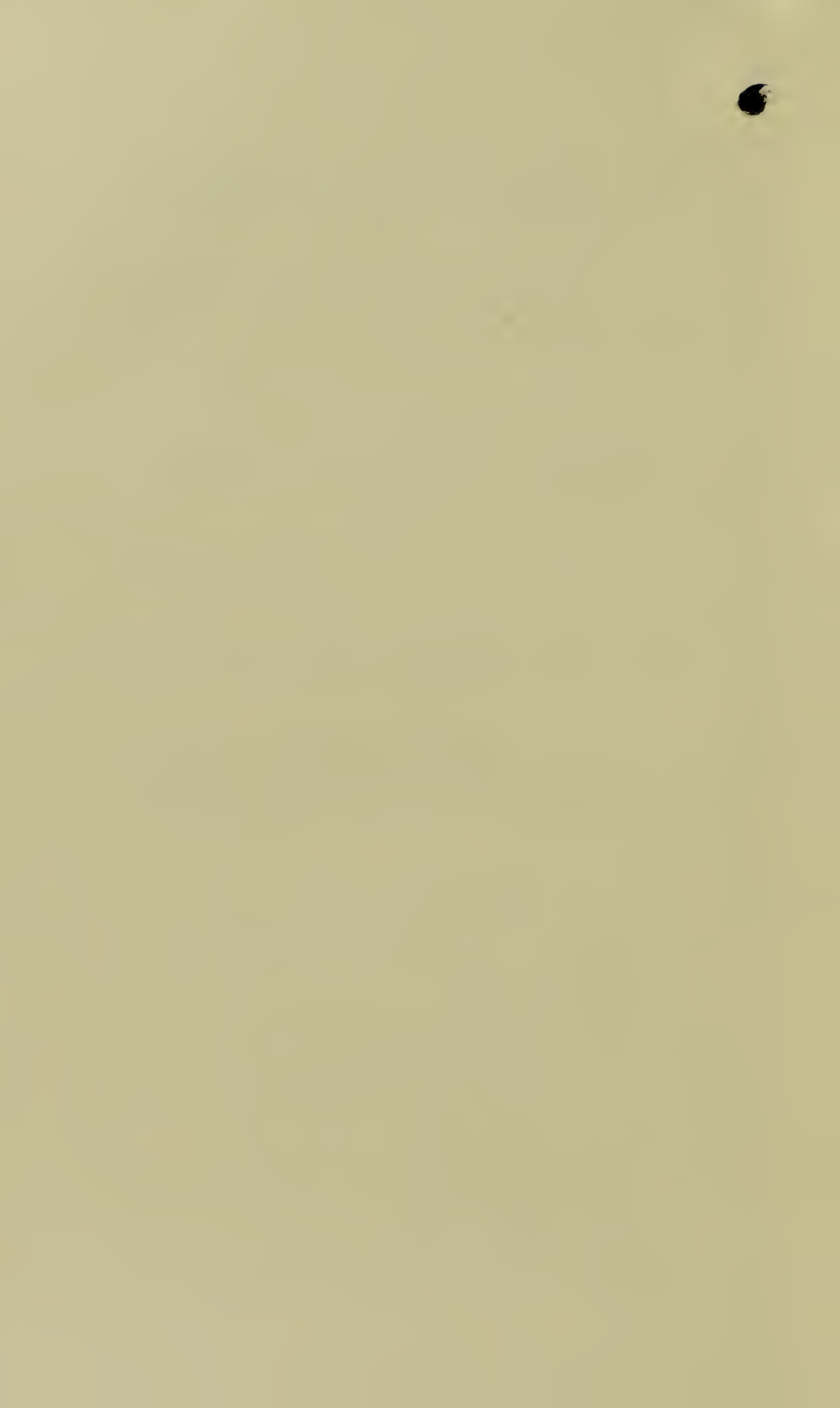
II. Number of families dwelling therein .. 128

III. Number of persons dwelling therein .. 719

B. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. —

C. I. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. —

II. Number of persons concerned in such cases —



- D. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding
- E. Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.

The Council have commenced the erection of 20 houses to abate overcrowding, and 26 houses to re-house families from slum houses. They propose to erect a further 110 houses for overcrowding and slum clearance

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—Inspection of cowsheds and dairies in the district were carried out in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1923 and 1936. The conditions of the cowsheds and dairies are on the whole satisfactory. Defects pointed out were rectified by the owners or occupiers. Samples of milk are taken from time to time and with rare exceptions are satisfactory.

(b) *Meat, etc.*—There are five registered slaughterhouses in the district. These are inspected regularly.

No statistics are available of the total number of killings in the district,

(c) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food*.—Laboratories of the County Council carry out this work

Nutrition.—There have been no public lectures on this subject in your district.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases shewed a further decline, particularly diphtheria. Of the four diphtheria cases notified only one was of school age and had not been immunised: this, to my mind, shews the success of immunisation.

The County Authorities have been approached with a view to carrying on further immunisation of school children.

The diphtheria cases were treated promptly with anti-toxin and recovered satisfactorily.

The scarlet fever cases were all of a mild type.

There were slight epidemics of measles and whooping cough during the year. Measles serum was not given, but whooping cough vaccine was given in some severe cases with good results.

There is no hospital accommodation for measles or whooping cough.

School notifications are useful in assessing the extent of non-notifiable infectious diseases

A supply of streptocide, a form of the valuable drug recently discovered for the treatment of puerperal pyrexia and similar conditions, is kept at the Council Offices and is available, free, to medical practitioners of the district when required. It is supplied by the County Medical Authorities.



Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937.

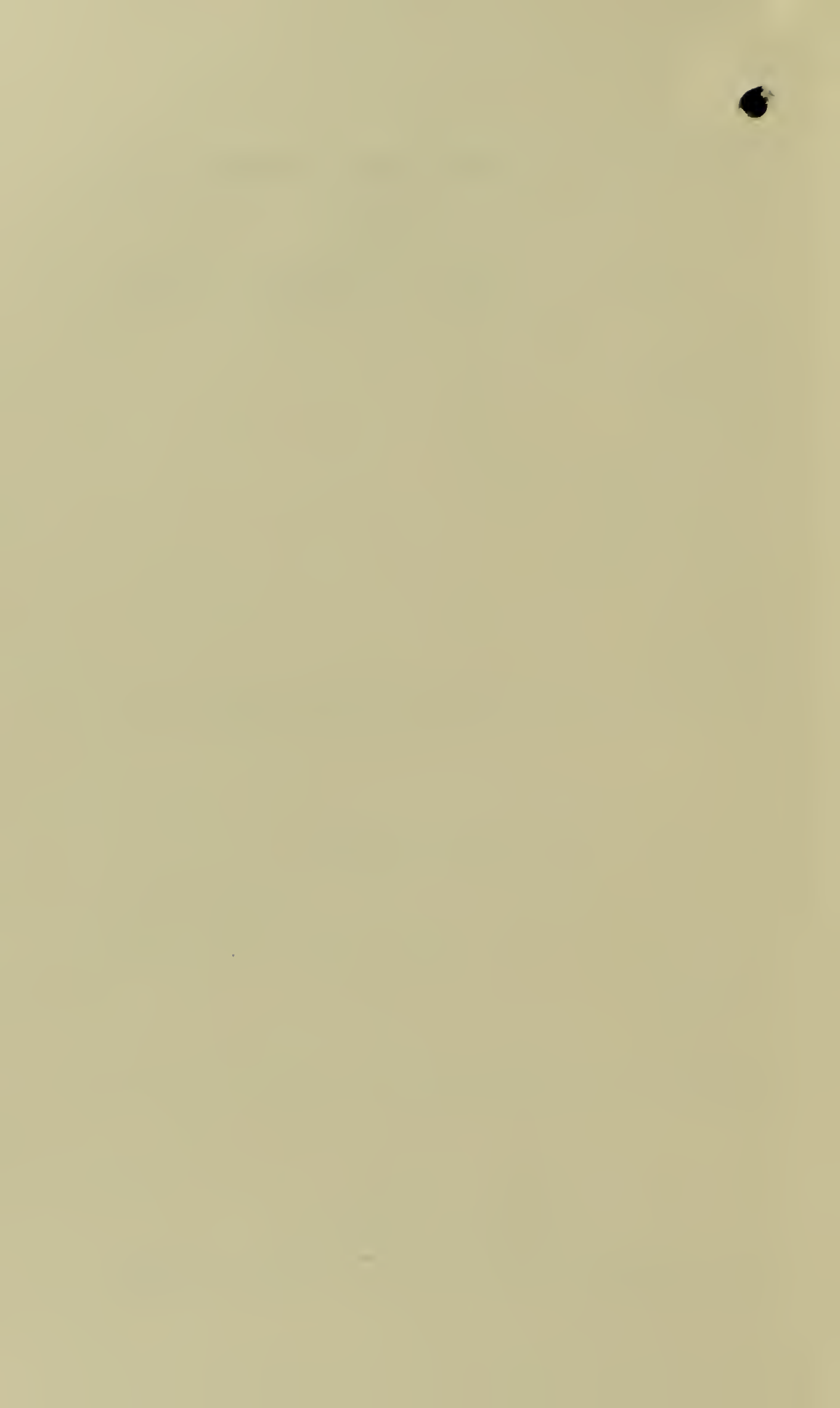
Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	2	—
Diphtheria	4	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia	16	—	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	—	—	—

Age Group Analysis.

	Under 1 yr	1	2	3	4	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-60
1. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
2. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—
3. Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1	4	1	2	4	3	—
4. Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.



Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

New Cases.					Deaths.			
Age Periods	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
20	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
25	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	0
35	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and Upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	6	1	1	1	4	1	0

All known cases were notified

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES FLEMING.

Cwmbran Urban District Council.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report

For the Year ending 31st December, 1937.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
CWMBRAN, MON.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Cwmbran
Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

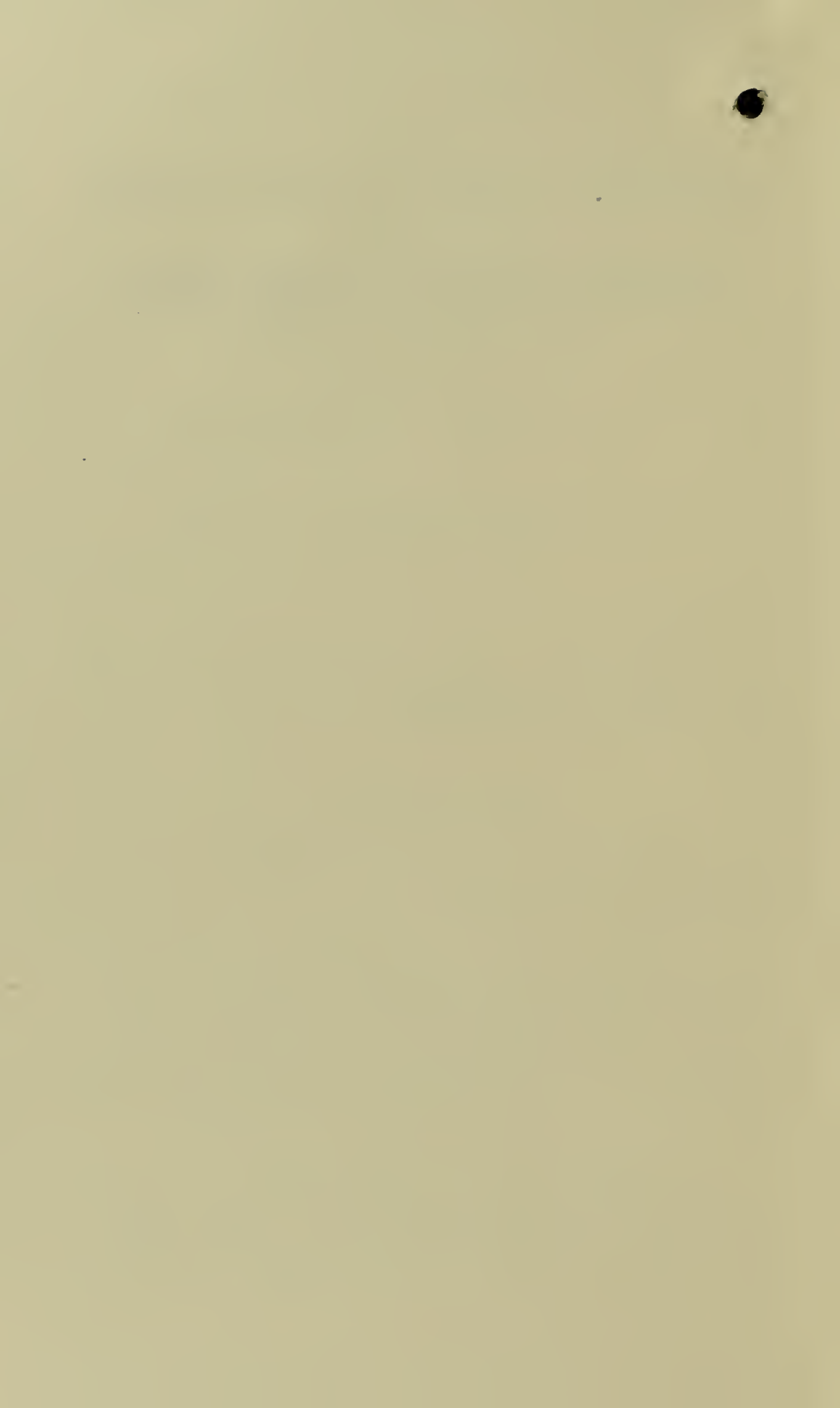
I beg herewith to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

House Inspection.

During the year 136 houses were inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

In many cases which would mean very heavy expenditure, I have arranged for the attention to the roofs, floors, etc., as being the most essential, and for the more general repairs to be done later on. The industrial conditions being so bad only absolutely necessary repairs have been insisted on.

In the case of nuisances arising from defective drainage the landlord's or agent's attention has been called to same and the necessary work has been done without the issuing of any notices.



The employees of the Council (acting under instructions) have attended to complaints, in some cases as a matter of urgency, in others to protect health. These attentions particularly refer to drains and mains.

Disinfecting.

During the year 37 houses have been disinfected.

G.W.R. Canal.

This is inspected in the daily routine of work, on account of the towing path being used so frequently, and I have had every assistance to deal with same from the Canal Depot of the G.W.R. Company and they have cleaned out the canal.

Some people, without consideration as to results to health, throw carcases of dead animals into the canal which of course decompose and, apart from the offensive smell that emanates therefrom, are likely to have far-reaching effects on the health of children who frequently play near ; also upon adults who use the towpath considerably, but such cases are not so frequent now as they used to be.

Slaughterhouses.

There are five slaughterhouses in your district and these are kept in a satisfactory condition. Part of the slaughtering is done on unlicensed premises and attention is paid as to cleanliness, the drainage, etc. A fair amount of meat is imported from other districts.



Cowsheds and Dairies.

There are 53 cowsheds in your district, which are periodically examined. Special attention has been paid for the requirements of light and ventilation ; impervious floors ; internal surfaces being limewashed, and proper drainage. In some cases the cowsheds have been re-modelled, and in others where it is somewhat overcrowded additional up-to-date sheds are going to be built. Samples of milk for tests of fat standard are regularly taken by County Inspector, whose reports have been very satisfactory.

The dairies and utensils are kept in a very clean condition and keep the milk clean and cool.

Factories and Workshops.

There are in your district, 10 factories, 12 bakehouses and 30 workshops, making a total of 52 registered workshops. Inspection has been periodically made, especially as regards ventilation, light, limewashing and lavatory accommodation. In two cases the sanitary accommodation has been altered and put in a proper sanitary condition. No other faults have been found.

Van Dwellings.

During 1937 the district has been free of gypsies. The land they used to frequent having been fenced off and used for other purposes.

Under the Slum Clearance Act of 1930, along with Medical Officer of Health, a great many houses in the



district have been inspected and reported to the Council who have scheduled some houses for demolition and others under the Improvements Acts, to be dealt with in the five years

I am pleased to record the absence of any necessity of instituting legal proceedings in order to secure abatement of nuisances, etc. I wish to convey thanks to the Members of the Council and their Officers, who at all times have given me their cordial co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR F. VINEY.





